

HE'EIA RIVER

HAWAII

Project Name: Lower He'eia Stream Restoration Project: Mahuahua 'Ai o Hoi

Project Type:

- Education (Youth Conservation Corps, Internships and Volunteer Programs)
- Restoration (Riparian and Wetland)
- Species Recovery
- Traditional Hawaiian Cultural Practices

Project Description: The He'eia watershed and the adjacent Kane'ohe Bay contain the highest numbers and greatest diversity of fish, marine invertebrates, and native marine algae on the island. The lower He'eia watershed was once a thriving wetland that native Hawaiians managed through traditional cultivation of taro, the ancient Hawaiian staple crop. However, in the mid-1800s, taro was replaced by sugar cane, pineapple, rice, and cattle ranching, resulting in significant changes to the landscape and to aquatic and wetland habitats.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The biodiversity of this area, coupled with the high level of interest from the He'eia community and local leadership, was the catalyst for the local community to prioritize this site for conservation action. The result is a community-based partnership to restore the biological, socioeconomic, and cultural productivity of the lower He'eia watershed by restoring wetlands, the stream, and adjacent reefs. Restoration will also recreate a traditional Hawaiian wetland system, including traditional agricultural practices.

Lead Federal Agencies:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Western Pacific Fishery Management Council
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Non-Federal Partners:

- Kako 'o 'Oiw
- Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club
- Hawaii Community Foundation
- Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership
- The Nature Conservancy
- Hawaii Community Development Authority
- Hawaii Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Harold K.L. Castle Foundation

Outcomes for 2012:

- Eradicate invasive species and remove mangrove
- Restore two acres of wetland and five acres of riparian habitat